



## U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2)

**AW2 Advocates provide** personalized support for AW2 Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families to ensure that they receive the appropriate benefits and entitlements. AW2 continues to grow and evolve to better serve the new and changing needs of AW2 Soldiers, Veterans, and Families and are with them during each phase of the Wounded Warrior Lifecycle.

**1) Evacuation and Notification:** Soldiers who are eligible for AW2 are assigned an AW2 Advocate who initiates contact with the Soldier and Family. The AW2 Advocate establishes a personal connection with the Soldier and Family and closely monitors their progress. (It is important to note that Soldiers may be found eligible for AW2 at a later point within the lifecycle and will be assigned an AW2 Advocate at that time.)

**2) Treatment:** While the AW2 Soldier is receiving medical inpatient or outpatient care, the AW2 Advocate identifies individual Soldier and Family issues, and actively manages these issues while preparing them for the next phases.

**3) Rehabilitation:** When an AW2 Soldier is in rehabilitation care and reaches a point where optimal medical benefit is achieved, the AW2 Advocate discusses life goals and future options with the Soldier and Family. The AW2 Advocate helps them to develop a plan of action for successful continuance of Army service or transition into the civilian community (e.g., utilizing an income calculator to compare possible incomes).



*AW2 Veteran Jay Wilkerson (left) and AW2 Advocate Melvin Kearney (right) talk during the AW2 Symposium.*

**4) Evaluation:** The AW2 Advocate actively monitors the Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) and Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) process, explains options, and completes a detailed income report assisting the Soldier and Family with their “stay on active duty vs. medically retire” decision.

**5) Transition:** The AW2 Advocate helps execute the plan of action for the Soldier and Family, to be placed on Temporary Disability Retired List, to Continue on Active or Reserve Duty (COAD/COAR), or to Medically Retire and transition into civilian community.

**6) Maintenance and Support:** The AW2 Advocate continues to proactively support the Soldier, Veteran, and Family by assisting with any new issues that they may face. In this final phase, the AW2 Advocate helps them to achieve their life goals and to adjust accordingly when these goals change. The AW2 Advocate maintains a relationship with them, to ensure they are receiving the support they need for as long as it takes.





**The U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2)** is the official Army program that serves severely wounded, ill, and injured Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families, wherever they are located, for as long as it takes. AW2 supports the most severely wounded Soldiers from Overseas Contingency Operations since 9/11 who have, or are expected to receive, an Army disability rating of 30% or greater in one or more specific categories or a combined rating of 50% or greater for conditions that are the result of combat or are combat related.

AW2 is one element of the Army's focus on caring for wounded Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families. AW2 Soldiers, Veterans, and Families are assigned an AW2 Advocate and may be assigned to a Warrior Transition Unit (WTU)

to focus on healing. The AW2 Advocate supports the WTU "triad of care" team consisting of a primary care physician, nurse case manager, and a military squad leader.

AW2 assists and advocates for more than 7,500 severely wounded Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families. More than 160 AW2 Advocates are located throughout the country where there are large concentrations of AW2 Soldiers at VA Polytrauma Centers, VA facilities, Military Treatment Facilities, and most military installations.

### AW2 Advocates Provide:

- Personalized, local support for as long as it takes, regardless of location or military status
- Assistance with day-to-day issues in recovery, as well as longer-term decisions, such as choosing to remain in the Army or to medically retire
- Support throughout the entire six-phase Wounded Warrior Lifecycle

*"When we have issues that need to be addressed, we turn to our AW2 Advocate. Things may seem hard now, but you just have to keep looking forward. Things will get better."*

—AW2 Soldier

### Throughout the Wounded Warrior Lifecycle, AW2 Advocates assist wounded Soldiers and their Families with:

- Benefit information
- Career guidance
- COAD/COAR support
- Education opportunities
- Financial audits
- Government agency coordination
- Lifetime assistance
- Local resources
- MEB/PEB guidance

**U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2)**

Warrior Transition Command (WTC)

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